



School Newsletter

With Christ, we live, love, learn and grow.

14.06.24

Dear parents and carers,

PTFA Summer Fair - Friday 21st June - 5.30 - 7.30 – message from Mrs Root and Mrs Wilson

Thank you for your generous donations today of toys and chocolates for the *Summer Fair* next week. As you know, next Friday is also a non-uniform day in return for donations for the bottle tombola. Bottles can be pop, wine, beer, spirits or even bubble bath!

We will have our usual favourites stall such as: the penalty shoot out, hook a duck, bottle tombola, toy and chocolate tombola, raffle and weather permitting, and back by popular demand, we have the donkey rides and a bouncy castle.

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered to help set up, run a stall or tidy up afterwards - we really do appreciate your support. If you are able to help in any way on the night and haven't yet let us know - please drop an email to Mrs Wilson and she will pass the message on to Mrs Root and the remainder of the PTFA who have worked hard to ensure a fun filled time will be had by all.

Mrs Singleton leaving at the end of term

Mrs Singleton has been successful in her application for a SENDCO post at St Peter's in Chorley starting in September. This new post will allow her to focus much more on the SENDCO role that she is so passionate about. Our loss is the definitely St Peter's gain. We wish her all the very best in her new role. For the next year, we will have Mrs Taylor as our SENDCO; she carried out the role here during a maternity leave last year. We will have teachers in place to cover the part-time teaching roles too.

Sports Day – new date!

We have rearranged sports day for **Friday 12th July**. We will give out more details nearer the time. Broadly speaking, it will be infants: nursery/ reception Y1 and Y2 in the morning and the juniors: Y3 – Y6 in the afternoon.

Y3 Big Sing

Mr Hodge, Mrs McGeown, Mrs Bradley, Mrs Holt and a team of parent volunteers took our Y3 class to a festival of singing at Chorley Town Hall yesterday. They performed to a wowed audience of

parents, grandparents and other special guests. I met one of our grandparents at the end of the school day who told me that she had been to see it, and told me it was a wonderfully joyful experience. The children absolutely loved it and Mr Hodge said that he was incredibly proud of the children's engagement and behaviour too. Well done to the children and thank you to the staff and parent volunteers for taking them.

Thomas Martland Maths Competition at Holy Cross

Mrs Wilson took a team of Y5 mathematicians to Holy Cross Catholic High School to compete in the prestigious annual Thomas Martland maths competition for local primary schools. Mrs Wilson reported that the team's attitude and behaviour was exemplary. They persevered in solving some very challenging problems and did very well overall – scoring an incredible 29 out of a possible 30. This was enough to clinch the trophy. And that is the first time this has happened in the time I have been at St Mary's! **Well done to our champion mathematicians: Felix, Joseph, Max and Rory.** Thank you Holy Cross for organising and hosting, and thank you to team manager, Mrs Wilson for taking them along. Well done the maths team!

High School Drop-In Sessions – Saturday afternoons

This week we have been sent some information by the Chorley Inspire team about high school drop-in sessions taking place on Saturdays over the next few weeks at local high schools. Please see picture to the right for details.

Meeting for Parents of Y5s – Isle of Man Residential visit autumn term 2024 – Tuesday 18 June at 6pm

There is a meeting for parents of Y5s moving into Y6 in September regarding the planned visit to the Venture Centre outdoor and adventurous activity centre near Ramsey on the Isle of Man.

Mr Cahalin will share information about the visit.



Chorley Parishes Youth Mass - message from Linda Walmsley, Lay Chaplain, Holy Cross Catholic High School

Good afternoon,

We are coming to the end of the second year of the Youth Mass programme in what used to be the Chorley Pastoral Area and we are really pleased with how the community have embraced the masses and the support we have had from all the local schools. **The final mass of the current cycle will be on Sunday 14 July at 6:30pm at St Gregory's.**

If any pupils would like to be involved with the offertory, or as a reader, please can you put them in touch with me via the school office?

Finally, advance notice that next term the youth celebration will be part of the Creation Mass which will take place on **Sunday 6 October.** Best wishes, Linda Walmsley

First Holy Communion 2024

On Sunday, children from our Y4 attended Mass at St Mary's Church to receive their First Holy Communion and celebrated that special occasion with their families and friends. They were prepared extremely well all year by our lead catechist and school governor, Kinga Grzeczynska and did themselves and their families proud.

On Monday this week, there was a celebratory tea party on Monday in school, with squash and biscuits. Mrs Wilson provided the children with a beautiful and delicious First Holy Communion cake. Deacon Norman blessed the gifts the children brought along and made a special presentation of gifts of a commemorative badge from the Archdiocese of Liverpool and of a certificate and a cross to them from St Mary's parish.

Thank you to children, parents, staff, parish volunteers, to Kinga, Deacon Norman, Fr Crowther, Fr Ball and Fr Marsden for working together so well in this important year in the children's journey of faith.

It's Mental Family Wellbeing Festival this weekend - Sunday 16th June 2024 – Ticket Draw

Mr Robinson from the *It's Mental: Family Wellbeing Festival* team informed us a week ago that St Mary's had won 10 x family tickets to give away. We had an excellent response to our draw with seventy-five names put in the hat. We carried out the draw in the Y6 classroom with 10 lucky winners pulled out of the hat by our Y6 children. Winners have been notified of their prizes, separately. Thank you once again to Mr Robinson for the very generous gift and best of luck this weekend to everyone who is going along – have a great time.

Phonics Screening Check & Y4 Multiplication Tables Check

Well done to all the children in Y1 who completed their phonics screening check with Mrs Cahalin this week and another big well done to the Y4s who completed their timed multiplication tables check with Mrs Banwell and Mrs Root this week, too.

RNLI Water Safety Talks

We were visited by the RNLI this week to work with each class on water safety. Staff and children found the talks to be very informative and enjoyable in sharing the message with us about staying safe near bodies of water.

Vacancies

We have an exciting vacancy for an apprentice to learn, develop and work in our nursery class. Ms Lang, who started as an apprentice with us a few years ago took this route with us and became a very skilled early years practitioner and is now moving on to bigger and better things. If you know of anyone who may be interested please ask to follow this link or contact Mrs Wilson at the school office for further details.

Link for Nursery Apprentice - https://schooljobs.lancashire.gov.uk/nt_vacancyDetails.asp?id=63879

As you know by now, we have a vacancy for a site supervisor (see link below).

Link for Site Supervisor - https://schooljobs.lancashire.gov.uk/nt_vacancyDetails.asp?id=63834

REMINDERS from previous newsletters

Polling Day Thursday 4 July – School closed

There is a general election taking place on **July 4th**. St Mary's is a polling station. The school and nursery will be closed on that day. We are sorry for any inconvenience that may cause you.

Book Fair

Miss Hesketh has also asked me to share news of the arrival of the Book Fair from **26th June until 3rd July**.

School Week from 4th September 2024

A reminder that from 4th September 2024 the school day will have a new start and end time. We will register children at the earlier time of **0850** and school will finish at the slightly later time of **1520**. Please note that the nursery class start and end times will be unaffected in September. The **nursery** day will remain as start at **0845 and end at 1515**.

Reception September 2024 places

We still have some places for our reception class in September, so if you know of anyone moving into the area and looking for a place in a Catholic school for September, please let them know. Sometimes families move into the area and are surprised the school is here because it is tucked away.

Kooth Mental Health and Wellbeing support

Kooth is an 11-18 mental health & wellbeing support service. Their age band just about catches our Y6 children. That said there are some good resources which I think would support most parents in supporting their children and these can be accessed here:

<https://cloud.brandmaster.com/shared/assets/319b4803b82fecf307bc>

From the Kooth website: *We're Kooth Digital Health: the UK's largest and longest-serving digital mental health service. We've worked with the NHS for over 20 years and are the UK's only BACP accredited digital mental health service. We currently operate one service for children and young people (Kooth) and one for adults (Qwell). Learn more about us by watching our short video or visiting koothplc.com.*

Free School Meals, Pupil Premium and School Budget

Our school budget, like most school budgets, is becoming increasingly stretched by the rising costs of goods and services. There is a source of funding that we think our school could be possibly missing out on. It is called **pupil premium** funding. Schools receive this money for each child that is entitled to the **free school meals** benefit (this is something different to infant free school meals).

The school may be missing out on this funding because it does not receive it automatically. It requires parents/ carers to apply for it and many of us may not even realise they we are entitled to this benefit.

To confuse matters further, all children in reception, year 1 and year 2 are entitled to universal infant free school meals but this is different to free school meals as it does not bring in pupil premium funding for school. Parents of children in the infants may be entitled to free school meals in addition to universal infant free school meals.

What can parents/ carers do to help?

Therefore we would like to ask all of our parents/ carers from reception to Year 6 to consider whether they might meet the criteria for free school meals for their child(ren). This could help to ensure that the school does not miss additional pupil premium funding.

There is a simple way to check to see if your child(ren) may be entitled to free school meals. It is accessed through Lancashire County Council and it is a very quick, straightforward process. See link: <https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/schools/free-school-meals/?page=2>

There is a very good article on the *Martin Lewis: Money Saving Expert* website which provides more information. <https://www.moneysavingexpert.com/family/free-school-meals/>

Messages from the school office:

ParentPay Please can we settle ParentPay accounts as soon as possible. Thank you.

School Uniform Please check the uniform requirements on the school website and complete the Groupcall form by 2nd June. Payments must be made in advance before 5th June. If you do not pay for your order in time, we will be unable to process your order before the deadline given by our suppliers and you will not receive your items by the end of the summer term. The school uniform order form has now been sent to parents electronically.

We can submit late orders/payments to our suppliers by 12th July, but you will not receive items until September. <https://www.chorleystmarys.lancs.sch.uk/our-school/school-uniform>

Chorley Catholic Community Annual Festival - Sunday 8th September 1pm - 5pm, St Gregory's Church, Weldbank, Chorley

Mr Paul McBeth the organiser of the *Chorley Catholic Community Annual Festival* has written to us to give advance notice of this year's event in September on Sunday 8th September 1pm - 5pm at St Gregory's Church, Weldbank, Chorley

He asked us to let you know about and offer you an official invitation to take part this year. It would be good to know if you want to take part. If interested, could you reply to cnocl@hotmail.com please? It's the same format as last year - you get a double gazebo but have to supply a table(s) and chairs.

Message from Kathryn Riley, UCLAN

[🔗 Participate in Free Health Testing for Early Diagnosis of Diseases and Cancers!](#)

Are you part of the local community and interested in contributing to valuable research on firefighters' health? Join us in this groundbreaking project conducted by University of Central Lancashire (UCLan) and Lancashire Teaching Hospital (LTHTR) Research Team.

Despite their general health and fitness, firefighters are experiencing alarming increases in the prevalence of diseases and cancers at much younger ages when compared to the general population. We aim to gain a better understanding of occupational factors affecting firefighters' health and to enhance the well-being of these courageous individuals.

Participants will:

- ✍️ Fill in a questionnaire about lifestyle and general health.
- 🩸 Provide blood and urine samples to test for cancer and disease markers, as well as the presence of persistent fire chemicals.
- 🩺 Carry out a spirometry test to assess overall lung function.

Free Health Checks are available for a limited time to any individuals:

- ⚡ Aged between 40 and 65;
- ⚡ With no history in firefighting or fire-related activities;
- ⚡ With no history of exposure to fire chemicals;
- ⚡ Who are able to understand verbal explanations or written information in English adequately.

Appointments will be scheduled for one-hour sessions in July as the tests are more thorough than routine checks. Tests will be carried out by experienced nurses and other specialists from LTHTR and UCLan.


Ready to take part? Reach out to us to register:

<https://redcap.link/firefighterstudy>

✉️ Email: FCDR@uclan.ac.uk

Join us in making a difference in firefighter health research! Together, let's ensure the well-being of those who dedicate their lives to keeping our communities safe.

Star of the Week 14.06.24

	Class	Name	Star of the Week for ...
	YN	Beck	increased confidence in the nursery class
	YR	Brody	excellent answers about seaside landscape
	Y1	James M	sharing his fantastic knowledge of trains with us all in our new topic.
	Y2	Teddy	fantastic contributions in maths all week 😊
	Y3	Mickey	super commitment to singing the songs at the <i>Big Sing</i>
	Y4	Jacob B	his wonderful work all week in maths during our shape topic.
	Y5	Cody	working hard on his handwriting and editing skills.
Y6	Charlie	a fantastic 'Alma' story with lots of description	

Attendance



Chorley, St Mary's Attendance League 2023/2024 w/e 14.06.24



CURRENT POSITION	CLASS	CURRENT %
1st	YEAR 5	97.31
2nd	YEAR 6	97.12
3rd	YEAR 1	96.84
4th	YEAR 3	96.83
5th	YEAR 2	95.42
6th	RECEPTION	95.18
7th	YEAR 4	95.06

Mental health and emotional wellbeing support for children. (Contacts right).



P Smyth 14.06.24



Young People
Scan this QR
code to find
support

SCAN ME

Text a school nurse directly to talk about health or emotional wellbeing:
If you're 11-19 text our ChatHealth line on:
07507330510
or scan the QR code



ChatHealth



Parents scan
this QR code to
find support

SCAN ME

If you're a parent of 5-19 year old text our Lancashire ParentLine for support on:
07312263554
or scan the QR code

care.think.do

